

Claims:

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10 1. A method for the transmission of multimedia messages in a communication system from a transmitting terminal (MS1) to a receiving terminal (RH, MS2), which communication system comprises at least a first communication network (NW1), a second communication network (NW2) and a multimedia message switching centre (MMSC), in which first communication network (NW1) at least a first address type is used as the terminal address and in which second communication network (NW2) at least a second address type is used as the terminal address, and in which system the address of the receiving terminal (RH, MS2) is annexed to said multimedia message, **characterized** in that the multimedia message is further supplemented with data on the type of said address, wherein the multimedia message is transmitted from the transmitting terminal (MS1) to said multimedia message switching centre (MMSC), in which the type of the address of the receiving terminal (RH, MS2) is examined, and said address type is used to select the communication network (NW1, NW2) to be used in the transmission of the message from the multimedia message switching centre (MMSC) to the receiving terminal (RH, MS2).

25 2. The method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that the first communication network (NW1) used is a mobile communication network and the second communication network (NW2) used is the Internet data network.

30 3. The method according to claim 2, **characterized** in that the first address type is an MSISDN number and the second address type is an SMTP address.

35 4. The method according to claim 2 or 3, **characterized** in that in the first communication network (NW1), multimedia messages are transmitted by using a first communication protocol, and in the second communication network (NW2), multimedia messages are transmitted by using a second communication protocol, and that the format of the data on the type of the address to be annexed to the multimedia message is independent of said communication protocols for multimedia messages.

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5 5. The method according to ^{*Claim 1*} ~~any of the claims 1 to 4~~, **characterized** in that the multimedia message is transmitted to two or more receivers, wherein the message is supplemented with the address of the terminal (RH, MS2) of each receiver, as well as data on the type of each address.

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10 6. The method according to ^{*claim 1*} ~~any of the claims 1 to 5~~, **characterized** in that the communication system is provided with a multimedia messaging service transfer protocol (MMTP), wherein multimedia messages to be transmitted from the transmitting terminal (MS1) to the multimedia message switching centre (MMSC) are converted into messages complying with said multimedia messaging service transfer protocol (MMTP).

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15 7. The method according to ^{*Claim 1*} ~~any of the claims 1 to 6~~, **characterized** in that said data on the address type is given in text format.

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20 8. The method according to ^{*claim 1*} ~~any of the claims 1 to 6~~, **characterized** in that said data on the address type is given as a hexadecimal character string.

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25 9. The method according to ^{*Claim 1*} ~~any of the claims 1 to 6~~, **characterized** in that said data on the address type is given as a binary number.

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30 10. The method according to ^{*claim 1*} ~~any of the claims 1 to 9~~, **characterized** in that in the method, two or more formats are used in the address and the address type data of said receiving terminal (RH, MS2), wherein in the method the multimedia message is also supplemented with data on the format used in the address and the address type data.

35 11. A communication system comprising means for transmitting multimedia messages from a transmitting terminal (MS1) to a receiving terminal (RH, MS2), at least a first communication network (NW1), a second communication network (NW2) and a multimedia message switching centre (MMSC), in which first communication network (NW1) at least a first address type is used as the address of the terminal, in which second communication network (NW2) at least a second address type is used as the address of the terminal, and said multimedia

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message is supplemented with the address of the receiving terminal (RH, MS2), **characterized** in that the communication system also comprises means (6, 7) for annexing data on the type of said address to the multimedia message, wherein the multimedia message is arranged to be transmitted from the transmitting terminal (MS1) to said multimedia message switching centre (MMSC) which comprises means (2, 3) for examining the data on the type of the address of the receiving terminal (RH, MS2) and means (3, 4) for using said address type to select the communication network (NW1, NW2) to be used in the transmission of the message from the multimedia message switching centre (MMSC) to the receiving terminal (RH, MS2).

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12. The communication system according to claim 11, **characterized** in that the first communication network (NW1) is a mobile communication network and the second communication network (NW2) is the Internet data network.

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13. The communication system according to claim 12, **characterized** in that the first address type is an MSISDN number and the second address type is an SMTP address.

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14. The communication system according to claim 12 ~~or 13~~, **characterized** in that the first communication network (NW1) is provided with a first communication protocol and the second communication network (NW2) is provided with a second communication protocol for the transmission of multimedia messages, and that the format of the address type data to be annexed to the multimedia message is independent of said communication protocols for multimedia messages.

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15. The communication system according to ^{claim 11} ~~any of the claims 11 to 14~~, **characterized** in that the multimedia message to be transmitted to two or more receivers is supplemented with the address of the terminal (RH, MS2) of each receiver as well as data on the type of each address.

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16. The communication system according to ^{claim 11} ~~any of the claims 11 to 15~~, **characterized** in that the communication system is provided with a multimedia messaging service transfer protocol (MMTP), wherein the

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transmitting terminal (MS1) comprises means for converting multimedia messages which will be transmitted to the multimedia message switching centre (MMSC) to messages complying with said multimedia messaging service transfer protocol (MMTP).

17. The communication system according to ~~any of the claims 11 to 16~~, ^{Claim 11} **characterized** in that at least one of said terminals (MS1, MS2, RH) is a wireless communication terminal (MS1, MS2).

18. A multimedia message switching centre (MMSC) arranged to be used in a communication system which comprises means for transmitting multimedia messages from a transmitting terminal (MS1) to a receiving terminal (RH, MS2), at least a first communication network (NW1), and a second communication network (NW2), in which first communication network (NW1) the address used for the terminal is of at least a first address type, and in which second communication network (NW2) the address used for the terminal is of at least a second address type, and said multimedia message is supplemented with the address of the receiving terminal (RH, MS2), **characterized** in that the multimedia message switching centre (MMSC) comprises means (1) for receiving the multimedia message, which multimedia message is also supplemented in the terminal (MS1) transmitting the multimedia message with the type of the address of said receiving terminal (RH, MS2), wherein the multimedia message switching centre (MMSC) also comprises means (2, 3) for examining said address type data from the multimedia message, and means (3, 4) for using said address type to select the communication network (NW1, NW2) to be used in the transmission of the message from the multimedia message switching centre (MMSC) to the receiving terminal (RH, MS2).

19. A wireless terminal (MS1) arranged to be used in a communication system comprising means (BSS1, BSS2) for transmission of multimedia messages from a transmitting terminal (MS1) to a receiving terminal (RH, MS2), at least a first communication network (NW1), a second communication network (NW2), and a multimedia message switching centre (MMSC), in which first communication network (NW1) the address used for the terminal is of at least a first address type, and in which second communication network (NW2) the address used for the

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